Manitoba

Annual Report 1990 - 91

Agriculture

Farm Lands Ownership Board

92-03978/

Minister of Agriculture

Room 165
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

To His Honour
George Johnson
Lieutenant-Governor for
the Province of Manitoba

Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit herewith the Report of The Manitoba Farm Lands Ownership Board for the period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991.

Yours truly,

Glen M. Findlay,
Minister

Manitoba

Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Room 159
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

(204) 945-3734

The Honourable Glen M. Findlay
Minister of Agriculture
Province of Manitoba

Sir:

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of The Manitoba Farm Lands Ownership Board for the twelve month period ending March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

G. J. Lacorny
Deputy Minister

Manitoba

Agriculture

The Farm Lands
Ownership Board

803 – 401 York Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0P8

September 19, 1990

The Honourable Glen M. Findlay
Minister of Agriculture
165 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Dear Mr. Findlay:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of The Manitoba Farm Lands Ownership Board for the period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991.

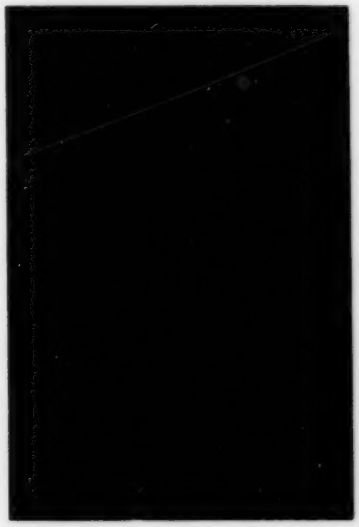
I wish to thank the Board Members for their dedication and cooperation in dealing with the applications for exemption.

Furthermore, I wish to thank our staff for the expert way in which they have dealt with inquiries from individuals and law and real estate firms, seeking information and assistance on farm land ownership legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Arnold Brown

Arnold Brown
Chairman



Annual Report of the Manitoba Farm Lands Ownership Board

For the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991

The Manitoba Farm Lands Ownership Board is a quasi-judicial and administrative body established under Section 6(1) of The Farm Lands Ownership Act. The Board is responsible for the administration and enforcement of The Farm Lands Ownership Act as well as certain additional duties and powers as specified in the legislation.

Board Members

Arnold Brown, Chairman – Winkler, Manitoba

Garnet McDonald, Vice-Chairman – Virden, Manitoba

Lorne Radcliffe, Member – Cardale, Manitoba

Joan Lewis, Member – McAuley, Manitoba

Beverley McKinney, Member – Waskada, Manitoba

Administration

H. Dale Osborne, Executive Director

R. Winters, Department of Justice

Staff

Dorothy Nowicki, Administrative Assistant

Marian Ferens, Clerk

General

The Farm Lands Ownership Act was passed by the Legislature in 1983 and proclaimed September 26, 1984.

The Administration of the Act involves the Board and administrative staff in all areas relating to the acquiring of an interest in farm land in Manitoba.

Certain categories of persons can acquire or hold an interest in Manitoba farm land without restriction or limitation. These include (a) a resident, (b) a family farm corporation (as defined in the Act), (c) a municipality, (d) a local government district; or (e) an agency of the government. The Act is not retroactive.

Non-residents can acquire an interest in Manitoba farm land if it is bequeathed to them by a Manitoba resident, a retired farmer or the spouse of a retired farmer.

A retired farmer or his/her spouse or an active farmer or his/her spouse who has farmed at least ten years, may also convey an interest in farm land to certain immediate relatives, even though these may be non-residents.

Board Activities

Under Section 3(3) of The Farm Lands Ownership Act, the Board has authority to exempt individuals, corporations, farm land or an interest in farm land, etc., from any provisions of the legislation.

The Board met seven times between April 1, 1990 and March 31, 1991 to consider applications for exemptions.

Two-hundred and seventy-five applications for exemptions were considered and approved by the Board.

Administration

The 1990/91 year continued to be a demanding one for the Board and staff. Inquiries from individuals and law and real estate firms seeking information and assistance on the legislation were dealt with by the office.

Under the Real Property Act and Registry Act, transfers of land over five acres tendered for registration, must be accompanied by a statutory declaration stating information pertinent to the transaction. These forms are forwarded to the Board office. In the period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991, the office received and processed 6,535 statutory declarations.

The Board office supplies data for statistical purposes to the Economic Analysis section. The acquisition of an office computer has improved this service.

Summary

The administration and enforcement of The Farm Lands Ownership Act has continued smoothly as the public continue to become more familiar with the legislation.

There was a decided increase in applications for exemption in the year 1990/91. The Board considered 275 applications for exemption, as compared to 199 applications the previous year.

It should be noted that the Board receives a large number of inquiries each year from would-be applicants for exemptions under the Act. The fact that there were few denials is due mainly to the fact that many non-residents and non-family farm corporations decide against applying for exemptions after learning more about the legislation from Board staff.